

Serial No.: 10/057,596
 Examiner: Gollamudi Kishore, Ph.D.
 Group Art Unit: 1615

references fail to teach or yield the invention as claimed. The Examiner has made a 103(a) rejection, yet has failed to provide the teachings necessary to overcome the deficiencies in these references in order to yield the invention as claimed.

Thus, dependent claims 17-18 are clearly patentable for all of the reasons indicated above with respect to claim 1 from which they depend.

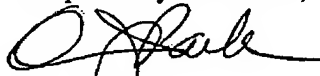
CONCLUSION

For at least the above reasons, reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection of the claims as anticipated under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b), § 102(e), and/or as obvious under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) is respectfully requested. Applicants respectfully submit that all pending claims are in condition for allowance, early notification of which is earnestly solicited. Should the Examiner be of the view that an interview would expedite the application at large, request is made that the Examiner telephone the undersigned attorney at (908) 518-7700, ext. 7 in order to resolve any outstanding issues.

FEES

The Office is authorized to charge any fees required to deposit account number 50-1047.

Respectfully submitted,



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I hereby certify that this correspondence and any document referenced herein is being sent to the United States Patent and Trademark office via Facsimile to: 703-872-9306 on 1/25/05.

Marjorie Scariati
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